

HURRICANE KATRINA UPDATE 8

Date: 12 September 2005

JOINT TASK FORCE ENGINEER SUMMARY

September 12, 2005

Submitted by Chuck Minsker, PA

General Situation: Efforts to provide relief and response support for Joint Task Force Katrina continue.

Media Activity: *None*

Navigation: All restrictions on the Mississippi River have been lifted above New Orleans. Once navigation aids have been replaced below New Orleans, the river will reopen to night traffic.

Military Support: The Seabees continued repairs at the Biloxi City Hall Annex, the VA Hospital and 20 sewage lift stations. Schools in Biloxi anticipate reopening on or about Sept. 23, thanks in part to Seabee efforts. The Seabees are clearing trailer sites and access roads at Flint Creek Water Park in support of FEMA trailer housing. Work continued to ensure New Orleans City Hall is fully operational as soon as possible. Repairs have been completed to the City of Biloxi municipal wastewater treatment plant.

Louisiana: More than 30,000 tons of ice and 23 million liters of drinking water have been distributed. More than 54,000 cubic yards of debris has been removed.

Mississippi: More than 38,000 tons of ice and 14.2 million liters of drinking water have been distributed. More than 105,000 cubic yards of debris have been removed in the last 24 hours.

Alabama: More than 18,000 tons of ice and 5.4 million liters of drinking water have been distributed. More than 34,000 cubic yards of debris have been removed.

Power: In Biloxi, the Popps area bridge was severely damaged by Katrina. Sections of the foundation were cracked and some pieces were missing, leaving the bridge inoperable. The power plant needs that bridge to continue generating power. A team from USACE, Bureau of Reclamation, the City of Biloxi Public Works and a professor from the University of Wyoming came together in an effort to safely raise the bridge to allow coal barges through.

Gulfport, Miss.: The Army Corps of Engineers' Task Force Hope Mississippi has about 300 personnel from around the nation focused on recovery operations in the Mississippi Recovery Field Office (RFO). This number could eventually reach 1000 at peak recovery as the Vicksburg District sets up a team to execute assigned FEMA missions.

USACE: The Corps has been assigned the FEMA mission “Operation Blue Roof.” Service centers are now open in Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Forrest, Stone, and Pearl River counties. Over 3000 requests have been received. Thirty-five contractors are now on the ground and have completed 100 roofs in the past 24 hours.